

## VIRGINIA PLANS TO PRESENT CLAIM

Dr. Fulton and Mr. Eggleston Explain Why State Has Right to Intervene.

Twelve million dollars will be paid to Virginia by the Federal government if the claim of the Old Dominion for her reserved interest in the proceeds of land sold by the United States in the Northwest Territory is prosecuted successfully. The whole matter was fully explained and discussed last night before the House Committees on Federal Relations and Courts of Justice by Dr. R. B. Fulton, of the Miller School, who has investigated the claim at the request of Superintendent Eggleston, of the Department of Public Instruction, if the claim is recognized and approved by the United States, all of the thirteen original States will receive large sums from the government, making a total of \$80,000,000.

Thorough investigation of the claim and a report of the best method to be pursued in following it were to be made by a subcommittee appointed last night, composed of Chairman Russell Page, of the House Committee on Courts of Justice; Chairman Wilson, of the House Committee on Federal Relations; and Delegates Yarrell and Stephenson.

They will respectfully request Senator Martin to join with them in their investigations and endeavors, for the junior Senator has given close study to this claim, and is conversant with every phase of it. The matter was brought to the attention of the Legislature in a special message from Governor Stanton at this session, appending the report of Dr. Fulton.

At the meeting last night, Superintendent Eggleston pointed out that the inquiry as to the claim had been instituted in 1907, when he had asked Dr. Fulton to look into it. While the claim of the University of Mississippi, Dr. Fulton has successfully established a land claim of that State against the Federal government for \$10,000. Dr. Fulton has given arduous labor to the task, and has visited several States in quest of the desired information. Dr. Fulton has explained the nature of the claim. It concerns the reserved interest of Virginia in the Northwest Territory. All that territory which was ceded by Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and a portion of Minnesota, at one time belonged to Virginia by virtue of a triple title—first, under the charter granted by King James I. of England in 1609; by conquest; and by actual possession.

"Under the Articles of Confederation of 1777," said Dr. Fulton, "it was provided that no State shall be deprived of territory for the benefit of the United States." Seven of the States held large possessions of western territory, but the six States which were not contented with the territory they should not be kept by the States owning them for their exclusive use. Maryland would not sign the articles, and the western territory surrendered them to the United States. Determined to maintain the confederation, Congress in 1783 and the States of the western territory ceded them to the general government.

"After negotiations with Congress, a formal compact of cession was made by Virginia in 1784, expressly stipulating in its final article that all the lands within the territory ceded, used for certain special and nonlocal purposes, should be considered as a fund for the benefit of the United States as have become, or shall become, members of the Confederation of the said States. Virginia, inclusive of territory, and the usual respect for the rights of the general charge and expenditures, and shall be faithfully and bona-fide disposed of for the benefit of the United States, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever. The cession was accepted by the United States. When the Constitution of the United States was adopted, it contained a provision that it should not be construed to prejudice the claim of any particular State, and before the Constitution by the United States should still be valid."

Of the six States of the contract created by the cession, Dr. Fulton continued, the Federal government had executed already five. Virginia, however, had reserved interest in the cession of Virginia and the other States ceding land in like manner, has been many times contravened. Though the last provision of the original thirteen States of the proceeds that might arise from the sale of these ceded lands, no State has received a cent of the money. Lands have been sold in tremendous tracts for purposes different from the agreement, and in such case the money ought to have been divided out among the original thirteen members of the Confederation, but it has never been done.

"Contrary to the express conditions of the act of cession," said Dr. Fulton, "the said Congress, at different times, has sold 38,563,212 acres of land, and derived \$2,935,654.79 from the sale of these public lands, entirely to local uses within six of the new States. The total value of all the land appropriated for purely local uses would be \$7,736,424. This, added to the sum of \$38,564 received from the sale of lands, would make a total of \$30,655,078.

"By the terms of the act of cession, Virginia's claim would be about one-seventh of the whole amount, or nearly \$2,000,000, exclusive of interest. "Land sold for local use was plainly in violation of the contract, and the right to the proceeds from such land would, therefore, belong to the original thirteen States. Unquestionably, an express trust was created, and which no statute of limitations can run."

Directly and indirectly, he declared, the United States had recognized this right time after time. The Federal government is bound in law and equity to discharge this obligation. The way has been opened, and it could not have been dissolved without the consent of the State of Virginia. The question, acting in her sovereign capacity, with the government, though Representative Tallafero, in 1898, introduced a memorial in regard to the claim, which seems never to have received consideration.

"I believe that Virginia's claim is a just and legal claim," said Dr. Fulton, in closing. "It presented in the right mode. I believe the government will recognize this claim."

Dr. Fulton, at the close of his speech, was tendered a vote of thanks by the committee.

**Hunyadi Janos Water**  
Speedy  
Sure  
Gentle  
NATURAL LAXATIVE  
Recommended by Physicians  
Refuse Substitutes  
1/2 Glass on arising for  
**CONSTIPATION**

## COMMITTEE FAVORS BYRD PRIMARY BILL

(Continued From First Page.)

land urged that the commission be composed of the Governor, the president of the State Corporation Commission and a tax expert.

Senator Folkes, in an address on the bill, said that he wished the Legislature to take up the bill on the State tax would be levied on lands, its income being derived from other sources.

Locomotive engines may, with the approval of the Senate, too, their whistles in this State on Sunday. Said engines, however, must have behind them interested freight—that is, it must be an interstate train.

**House's Busy Day.**

The House passed three Senate and fifteen House bills. They went through with ease because of the fact that they were local and uncontested measures advanced on the previous day.

Among the more important measures enacted were the two laws governing the creation of county boards of health and enlarging the powers of the State Board of Health, the agricultural seed bill, the measure donating part of the Lee Camp Soldiers' Home grounds to a Battle Abbey, and the bill defining and punishing pandering.

Much lamentation was heard yesterday because of the action of Thursday in advancing uncontested measures. This is the second time this has been done, with the result that on each occasion the men with contested bills have been made to go to the rear and sit down, one protest being sufficient to pass a bill by. It is pointed out that the local bills will get through without delay, because there will be no objection to taking them up out of their order, while the contested bills cannot be reached at all for debate and vote under the existing practice. It is not probable that the House would again vote for such a rule advancing bills.

**No Afternoon Sessions.**

The House yesterday voted down a resolution providing for afternoon sessions to begin next Monday. The proposal was that the Speaker should have the chair at 2 o'clock and resume it at 4. Objection was made because of the excessive work now done in committees and because the motion was premature.

Pre-eminent, of course, in committees yesterday were the hearings of the Byrd bill, for the reorganization of the Baylor Oyster Survey. Crowds of out-of-town visitors came to Richmond for this event, which so vitally concerns the citizens of the Tidewater section.

Last night two of the House committees heard the proposition to hand Uncle Sam that bill for \$12,000,000. Dr. Fulton and Mr. Eggleston were heard with much more cordiality than are most of those who have appeared before legislative committees, for the reason that they come bearing gifts for the State instead of asking for appropriations.

In addition to the work on the primary bills, the House Committee on Privileges and Elections reported favorably two more Byrd bills guarding emergency clause machinery, especially with reference to local option elections.

## SENATE

Prayer by Rev. S. C. Hatcher, of Centenary Methodist Church, opened yesterday's session of the Senate.

Favorable reports were made on the Lesner bill providing a tax on crabbing, clamming and fishing; on the Elam bills, respecting taxes to be paid by telephone and telegraph companies, and scheduling the subjects of taxation under tangible personal property; the Parks bill, as to collateral inheritance tax; the Owen billiard parlor tax; and the House bill taxing on water, gas and electric companies.

A petition was received from citizens of Rockbridge county asking for State-wide prohibition.

Senator Folkes introduced a joint resolution providing the payment of \$216.40 for the new lights which have been installed in the Senate chamber. The resolution was adopted.

A communication was received from the Norfolk Typographical Union, pointing out the desirability of establishing methods for the cure of tuberculosis.

Three bills were passed finally: Senator Walker's bill, regarding the contract of loans for the erection of court houses, clerk's offices and jails; Senator Carter's bill, allowing interstate freight trains to run through the State on Sunday; and the Fletcher bill, for the equalization of taxes.

The Lassiter bills in reference to the criminal insane and their disposition were set as a special order for Monday at 12:45 o'clock. The same day a tax bill was set for 12:30 Tuesday.

**Considering Fletcher Bill.**

When the Fletcher bill came up on motion to reconsider, it having failed to pass on Wednesday because its emergency clause required a four-fifths vote, Senator Kezcel expressed the hope that a reconsideration might be allowed.

Denouncing the bill as impracticable and criticizing the power it vested in the Auditor of Public Accounts, Senator Noel opposed reconsideration.

The patron of the bill, Senator Fletcher, said that it was ripe for time to reconsider, and pass the bill. It had been on the calendar from almost the first day. The Senate by its vote had showed itself to be clearly and decisively in favor of the bill. The bill meets a pressing need and ought to go through quickly, he said, and he would strike out the emergency clause.

On the motion to reconsider, the vote was 26 to 5, the minority voting without exception in the negative. The emergency clause having been stricken out, the bill passed by a vote

of 26 to 5, the minority again going on record against the bill.

Senator Fletcher asked two days' leave of absence for Senator Ward, who has sprained his ankle and is confined to his room.

The tax commission bill, special order for the day, was explained fully by its patron, Senator King. The present bill is a substitute, said he, which represents the view of Senator Strode and himself. There is now a sentiment in the General Assembly for such a commission, stronger than ever before.

"The experience of many other States has shown that an equalization board is inefficient. They never achieve equalization. Segregation is to be sought for. The Fletcher bill is only a temporary measure, and some permanent method ought to be adopted."

**Can Secure Facts.**  
"A tax commission can secure facts which the Legislature cannot in ninety days," he said. "The fundamental purpose of such a commission is to obtain and make an intelligent and helpful report to the General Assembly, based on such facts."

"He advocated a small commission because its size would make it easy to get together. It would do more actual work. It would require less to make up a report. Work could not be delegated to subcommittees. There would be less chance of a compromise report. There would be less hazard of sectional influence and biased partisanship."

Representation would be given to the five grand divisions of the State. He thought the commission should be made up from the General Assembly, for the jurisdiction and consideration of taxation is within the sole peculiar province of the Legislature. Some of the members could take advantage of the facts they gained while acting on the commission in legislation.

Senator King's bill would constitutionally of the provision of the bill which allowed members of the commission their expenses over and above mileage. That might be contrary to the provision of the Constitution as to the holding of two offices simultaneously, especially since the addition of the tax commission to the list.

Continuing his main argument, Senator King said that all persons who so desired might come and give their views to the commission. All interested could be given a full hearing. Witnesses could be summoned and all sorts of evidence brought into the sessions of the commission. The commission would be made away from the antiquated methods of taxation prevalent at the present.

Senator King's argument was a thorough explanation and logical exposition of the merits of his measure. The committee on the subject would be change by the State Library of some relics and documents for others held by Mr. Stewart was passed.

**Wants Governor on It.**

Desiring to amend the tax commission bill, Senator Holland proposed that the commission be composed of the Governor, the chairman of the State Corporation Commission and an expert chosen by them.

"I agree with the purpose of the King bill," said Senator Holland, "but I dislike the idea of a commission chosen from the General Assembly. The underlying idea is wrong on principle and the experience is wrong in fact."

He suggested the Governor, because no man is more thoroughly interested in the tax question than the Chief Executive. The chairman of the State Corporation Commission is especially conversant with corporation taxation, and the experienced engineer would add the necessary theoretical information. Such a commission would be very inexpensive, for the expert would be the only man to draw compensation. At this particular time a small outlay is desirable.

Senator Palsley wanted some sort of commission by all means. He favored the King bill first, but was willing to accept the Holland idea if necessary. He saw no reason why the commission might not be made up from the General Assembly, charged as it is with the care of the State. It is a body accessible to the people. A good proportion always returns. He saw no constitutional difficulty in the matter. That objection might be obviated by making it clear in the bill that the expert is not to be a member of the commission, but an ancillary and advisory in his capacity.

**Senator Noel Opposed.**

Opposition voiced itself in Senator Noel, who preferred the Holland idea to that of the King bill. He did not like the districting called for under the bill, and proposed a different scheme. He liked the idea of the Governor being on the commission, but was familiar with all parts of the State.

"I am opposed to having it composed of members of the General Assembly," he protested. "It is improper for the Legislature to appoint its members to this or to any other office under the State. It is a principle as set as bad as creating a new office for a special individual. The idea underlying is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. I am opposed to the idea in all its ramifications, whether it be in the case of the Legislature or even in the case of the Executive."

He declared that the Legislature ought to do all the work on taxation while it is in session, and stop worrying the people between times.

He urged the Legislature to contemplate a day when taxation on real estate would be taken up by the Legislature, and the question of the taxation of personalty made more important in the deliberations of the General Assembly.

If the counties wished to divide the rolling stock tax they should not do it for the sake of the General Assembly. He wished that the Legislature would immortalize itself by passing a law that after 1913 there would be no tax on lands levied by the State, but that the State would derive its revenue from the many other sources.

The tax question has been before the Legislature after Legislature, and ought to be solved and shoved out of the way forever. This trying ordeal of county being arrayed against county in the dispute about the proper amount of taxes they pay ought to stop.

In motion of Senator Parsons adjournment was taken at 2:10 o'clock.

**HOUSE**

Among the bills reported to the House from committees yesterday were: a bill to amend the General Assembly of the State militia; a member ex-officio of the boards of visitors of the Virginia Military Institute and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, from the Committee on Schools and Colleges.

The Byrd primary bill with amendments, The West, Deal and subcommittee primary bills, and the recommendation that they do not pass. The Byrd bill, allowing examination of registration books prior to local option elections, and allowing appeals from decisions of registrars. All these were from the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The Byrd liquor bill as amended, from the Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

**Afternoon Meetings.**  
Mr. Jennings offered a resolution providing for afternoon sessions of the House at 4 o'clock, beginning Monday. This resolution was not adopted.

Mr. Bowman, of Roanoke, opposed the resolution. He called attention to the fact that most of the work at present is in committees, this being the most important feature now of the session.

Mr. Page also spoke in opposition, saying that after new bills have ceased to be introduced, which will be on next Saturday, it will be time for committee work to slacken and for the House to hold additional sessions. The Jennings resolution was lost.

Mr. Page also spoke in opposition, saying that after new bills have ceased to be introduced, which will be on next Saturday, it will be time for committee work to slacken and for the House to hold additional sessions. The Jennings resolution was lost.

**Senate Bills Pass.**

The following Senate bills were passed: To enable incorporated towns and cities to contribute to the building or improvement of public roads and bridges leading to such towns and cities.

To authorize the town of Clarksville to purchase outstanding bridge certificates secured by deed of trust of a toll bridge across the Dan and Staunton Rivers.

To authorize the Board of Supervisors of Mecklenburg county to purchase the toll bridge across the Dan and Staunton Rivers, and to maintain the same as a free bridge.

House bills on their third reading having been reached, the following were passed:

To provide for the appointment of local boards of health. Patron, Mr. Cox.

To authorize the State Board of Health to adopt and enforce rules and regulations for the protection of the public health. Patron, Mr. Cox.

**Dog-Killing Easy.**  
To assess costs of killing vicious and sheep-killing dogs against the owners and to allow the killing at once of any dog caught in the act of worrying sheep or goats. Patron, Mr. Stephenson, of Bath.

To amend the Code so as to entitle the widow of a soldier to the proceeds of the sale of lands sold to satisfy a lien, but to be payable out of the surplus. Patron, Mr. White.

To prohibit the catching of bass during the spawning season. Patron, Mr. White.

To regulate the sale of and to provide a standard of purity for agricultural seeds. Patrons, Mr. Adams and Mr. West, of Nansemond.

To amend the charter of the city of Newport News. Patron, Mr. Starmer.

To authorize the board of supervisors of Allegheny county to borrow money to build a courthouse and to build bridges. Patron, Mr. Spessard.

To authorize the city of Portsmouth to issue bonds for street improvements. Patron, Mr. Parker.

To regulate the storage and distribution of ardent spirits in the city of Richmond and the county of Frederick. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To provide for the continuance of the annual tolls on turnpikes. Patron, Mr. Grigsby.

**Battle Abbey Site.**  
To provide, with certain conditions, a site for the erection of a Confederate Memorial Institute or Battle Abbey on land known as the Soldiers' Home property. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To define and punish pandering. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To provide for apportionment of school funds and for taking census of children in school districts in more than one county. Patron, Mr. Oliver.

To authorize district school boards to borrow money and issue bonds to build and furnish schoolhouses. Patron, Mr. Stephenson, of New Kent.

All of these were bills passed as local and uncontested measures. The order of Thursday referring to second reading measures. The only opposition was aroused by the bill regarding widows' dower. Mr. Yarrell thought it would change the custom which has always existed. He said he did not want to produce the rights of creditors or of children which now exist.

Mr. White defended his bill, saying that Mr. Yarrell did not understand it. He said its purpose was to give the wives and widows their just rights. The effect is that when a wife dies, her husband in a deed of trust, as far as possible, out of the whole amount, instead of receiving one-third of the surplus. The bill was passed by a vote of 76 to 2.

The House adjourned at 2:14 o'clock.

**Senate Bills**

By Mr. Lassiter: A bill to amend and reenact section 1969 of the Code of Virginia, as heretofore amended, in reference to the procedure before a commission to ascertain insanity.

By Mr. Kezcel: A bill to authorize the Board of Supervisors of Rockingham county to establish and construct a road to connect the Broadway and Broad streets public highway; to lease and sell bonds of the county of Rockingham to the extent of one-half of the estimated value of such road for the purpose of paying off such bonds in full of the assessments of tax for such road.

By Mr. Kezcel: A bill to amend and reenact an act entitled an act providing for the removal of a certain portion of the county of Rockingham, approved March 2, 1888, as amended by an act of the General Assembly, approved February 25, 1892, as further amended by an act of the General Assembly, approved March 2, 1894, and as further amended by an act of the General Assembly, approved February 26, 1896, approved March 15, 1904.

By Mr. Kezcel: A bill concerning the charter and transactions of the General Association of the University of Virginia, and accepting the provisions of a certain deed of trust made by said association for the use and benefit of the University of Virginia.

**Here and There in the Legislature**

In the five minutes' time allotted him, Mr. West, of Nansemond, made an attractive presentation of his fee bill yesterday morning before the House Committee on Finance. His measure simply provides that all officials in this State whose compensation is composed as a whole or in part of fees must keep complete records of all fees received by them. Mr. West said he had no objection to adding to the bill that these reports, after being sent to the county or city clerk, be forwarded to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, nor did he demur to a point raised that it might be well to have the officials state what expense they were put to for clerk hire and other things. He wanted light, and thought the people were entitled to know what their officers would tell, he said.

It is not fitting, he said, that some of our officials should be receiving, in supposedly minor positions, several times as much money as the Governor of the State or a member of the Supreme Court, and perhaps even approximating the salary of the President of the United States. At all events, the people, who pay the bills, are entitled to know what their servants get.

The statements of receipts are to be sworn to, and are to be used as a basis for future action by Legislatures.

The committee first heard Rev. E. C. Buck on his proposition to allow pension boards to summon witnesses and examine them under oath in matters of pension applications.

**Soldiers' Records.**  
Major Robert W. Hunter, the Secretary of Virginia Military Records, referred an account of his stewardship. He emphasized the duty of preserving the records of the State's soldiers in the most valuable records of the Revolutionary War have been lost, and as a result Virginia has not the credit she should have for her part in that contest, because she can't prove it. "And," added Major Hunter, "as modern Virginia's part was in Revolutionary times and in the formative period of the country's history, her most splendid record was made in the times of the Civil War." Therefore the rolls should be gotten together while it is still practicable to do so.

The Spessard bill, reducing the fees of ex-convicts, was next considered, but its argument was not concluded. It was opposed by several interested persons.

An interested and interesting visitor on the floor of the House this week was Judge Selden Longley, of Radford. Judge Longley sat in the same body as a member from Washington county during the stormy Legislature of 1873-4, he being the youngest member. During that session he voted forty times for the late John Goode for the United States Senate.

The other candidates were Robert E. Withers and Major Robert W. Hunter. Mr. Goode's name was at last dropped and Colonel Withers elected.

Judge Longley still wears with pride a watch presented to him by the members of the House, in which he served the whole term ago. While in the House a negro entered his room one night, stole all of his clothes, his money and watch, and as a result of this occurrence the members gave him a gold timepiece engraved with the words of presentation.

The Committee on Federal Relations of the House met yesterday morning and favorably considered the Throckmorton joint resolution asking the United States government to send an expert to Virginia to examine and report upon the waste land, especially the land known as the Soldiers' Home property. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To define and punish pandering. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To provide for apportionment of school funds and for taking census of children in school districts in more than one county. Patron, Mr. Oliver.

To authorize district school boards to borrow money and issue bonds to build and furnish schoolhouses. Patron, Mr. Stephenson, of New Kent.

All of these were bills passed as local and uncontested measures. The order of Thursday referring to second reading measures. The only opposition was aroused by the bill regarding widows' dower. Mr. Yarrell thought it would change the custom which has always existed. He said he did not want to produce the rights of creditors or of children which now exist.

Mr. White defended his bill, saying that Mr. Yarrell did not understand it. He said its purpose was to give the wives and widows their just rights. The effect is that when a wife dies, her husband in a deed of trust, as far as possible, out of the whole amount, instead of receiving one-third of the surplus. The bill was passed by a vote of 76 to 2.

The House adjourned at 2:14 o'clock.

**Senate Bills**

By Mr. Lassiter: A bill to amend and reenact section 1969 of the Code of Virginia, as heretofore amended, in reference to the procedure before a commission to ascertain insanity.

By Mr. Kezcel: A bill to authorize the Board of Supervisors of Rockingham county to establish and construct a road to connect the Broadway and Broad streets public highway; to lease and sell bonds of the county of Rockingham to the extent of one-half of the estimated value of such road for the purpose of paying off such bonds in full of the assessments of tax for such road.

By Mr. Kezcel: A bill to amend and reenact an act entitled an act providing for the removal of a certain portion of the county of Rockingham, approved March 2, 1888, as amended by an act of the General Assembly, approved February 25, 1892, as further amended by an act of the General Assembly, approved March 2, 1894, and as further amended by an act of the General Assembly, approved February 26, 1896, approved March 15, 1904.

By Mr. Kezcel: A bill concerning the charter and transactions of the General Association of the University of Virginia, and accepting the provisions of a certain deed of trust made by said association for the use and benefit of the University of Virginia.

**Here and There in the Legislature**

In the five minutes' time allotted him, Mr. West, of Nansemond, made an attractive presentation of his fee bill yesterday morning before the House Committee on Finance. His measure simply provides that all officials in this State whose compensation is composed as a whole or in part of fees must keep complete records of all fees received by them. Mr. West said he had no objection to adding to the bill that these reports, after being sent to the county or city clerk, be forwarded to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, nor did he demur to a point raised that it might be well to have the officials state what expense they were put to for clerk hire and other things. He wanted light, and thought the people were entitled to know what their officers would tell, he said.

It is not fitting, he said, that some of our officials should be receiving, in supposedly minor positions, several times as much money as the Governor of the State or a member of the Supreme Court, and perhaps even approximating the salary of the President of the United States. At all events, the people, who pay the bills, are entitled to know what their servants get.

The statements of receipts are to be sworn to, and are to be used as a basis for future action by Legislatures.

The committee first heard Rev. E. C. Buck on his proposition to allow pension boards to summon witnesses and examine them under oath in matters of pension applications.

**Soldiers' Records.**  
Major Robert W. Hunter, the Secretary of Virginia Military Records, referred an account of his stewardship. He emphasized the duty of preserving the records of the State's soldiers in the most valuable records of the Revolutionary War have been lost, and as a result Virginia has not the credit she should have for her part in that contest, because she can't prove it. "And," added Major Hunter, "as modern Virginia's part was in Revolutionary times and in the formative period of the country's history, her most splendid record was made in the times of the Civil War." Therefore the rolls should be gotten together while it is still practicable to do so.

The Spessard bill, reducing the fees of ex-convicts, was next considered, but its argument was not concluded. It was opposed by several interested persons.

An interested and interesting visitor on the floor of the House this week was Judge Selden Longley, of Radford. Judge Longley sat in the same body as a member from Washington county during the stormy Legislature of 1873-4, he being the youngest member. During that session he voted forty times for the late John Goode for the United States Senate.

The other candidates were Robert E. Withers and Major Robert W. Hunter. Mr. Goode's name was at last dropped and Colonel Withers elected.

Judge Longley still wears with pride a watch presented to him by the members of the House, in which he served the whole term ago. While in the House a negro entered his room one night, stole all of his clothes, his money and watch, and as a result of this occurrence the members gave him a gold timepiece engraved with the words of presentation.

The Committee on Federal Relations of the House met yesterday morning and favorably considered the Throckmorton joint resolution asking the United States government to send an expert to Virginia to examine and report upon the waste land, especially the land known as the Soldiers' Home property. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To define and punish pandering. Patron, Mr. Byrd.

To provide for apportionment of school funds and for taking census of children in school districts in more than one county. Patron, Mr. Oliver.

To authorize district school boards to borrow money and issue bonds to build and furnish schoolhouses. Patron, Mr. Stephenson, of New Kent.

All of these were bills passed as local and uncontested measures. The order of Thursday referring to second reading measures. The only opposition was aroused by the bill regarding widows' dower. Mr. Yarrell thought it would change the custom which has always existed. He said he did not want to produce the rights of creditors or of children which now exist.

Mr. White defended his bill, saying that Mr. Yarrell did not understand it. He said its purpose was to give the wives and widows their just rights. The effect is that when a wife dies, her husband in a deed of trust, as far as possible, out of the whole amount, instead of receiving one-third of the surplus. The bill was passed by a vote of 76 to 2.

The House adjourned at 2:14 o'clock.

**Senate Bills**

By Mr. Lassiter: A bill to amend and reenact section 1969